

2024 ANNUAL CONGRESS

of the Schizophrenia
International Research Society

Responding to Challenges in a Changing World

PROGRAM BOOK

3-7 April 2024

Florence, Italy

schizophreniaresearchsociety.org



Opening Letter

Dear Attendees,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 Congress of the Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS). We promote communication about schizophrenia research among scientists, clinicians, industry, and policymakers internationally, and this year we have also tried to improve public understanding. We are looking forward to seeing colleagues again and are excited for friends to renew their acquaintances while scientific developments are aired face-to-face in beautiful Florence.

We have an exciting scientific program developed by the outstanding leadership of our Program Committee Chairs, Nicolas Crossley, Eric Chen, and Marion Leboyer. This year we are focused on "Responding to Challenges in a Changing World." We will bring together global academic leaders who will deliver new ideas, identify new targets and psychological models to benefit individuals with serious mental health diagnoses and their families across the world.

Our program features keynote presenter German Berrios, renowned academic and neuropsychiatrist, plus seven plenary speakers who will provide in-depth, new findings in schizophrenia research. We have lots to choose from with 34 outstanding symposia, and 96 oral presentations. We also have three workshops and several satellite symposia from our industry partners. Our itinerary planner and meeting app allow for easy planning. You can visit the poster sessions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to see over 900 presentations. We also, of course, have places where you can chat to old friends, make new ones, and develop your research networks. We will also be slidecast recording all of our congress sessions that you will be able to access on-demand after the congress.

We want to make sure that we always provide the best conference so please remember to complete an evaluation. If you are not already a member, please stop by the registration desk and inquire about member benefits.

Nicolas, Eric, Marion, all the Program Committee members and I hope you enjoy all this year's conference offers.

Yours sincerely,

The Organizers

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Plenary Speakers



German Berrios, FRCPsych

Keynote Speaker



Raquel Gur, MD, PhD

**Brain Development and
Psychosis**



Jari Tiihonen, MD, PhD, Prof

**Antipsychotic Treatment of
Schizophrenia: Real-World
Evidence from National
Cohorts**



Sara Evans-Lacko, PhD

**The Role of Stigma and
Socio-Economic Factors in
Perpetuating Inequalities
for People with Psychosis**

Plenary Speakers



Oliver Howes, MD

**Could the Synaptic Hypothesis
Explain All of Schizophrenia?**



Robin Emsley, ChB, DSc, MB

**Psychopharmacological
Developments and the Quest for
Optimal Outcomes in
Schizophrenia**



Padmavati Ramachandran,
MD

**Research to Practice -
Understanding the
Schizophrenia Conundrum**



Matcheri Keshavan, MD

**Refining the Nosology of
Psychotic Disorders:
Toward Cognitive Subtypes**

Learning Objectives

Clinicians:

- Discuss strategies for determining an approach to manage patients with schizophrenia.
- Discuss the status of genetic findings, and how they can be incorporated into strategies for managing patients with schizophrenia.
- Describe the use of brain imaging data about pathophysiology and disease progression to revise or continue a strategy for managing patients with schizophrenia.
- Discuss the implications of basic neuroscience findings for managing patients with schizophrenia.

Researchers:

- Discuss approaches to develop novel treatments for schizophrenia.
- Describe strategies for translating basic neuroscience into knowledge that can be used in clinical practice.
- Discuss differences in schizophrenia research across diverse cultures and geographic areas.
- Describe novel intervention studies that will promote the development of advanced knowledge about schizophrenia.
- Discuss methods to advance the clinical application of genetic research in schizophrenia.

Disclosures

Click here to view the Disclosures of the 2024 speakers, plenary, symposia, workshop, oral presentations and poster presenters.

Conference Evaluation

All conference attendees are urged to complete an evaluation of the meeting. Attendees who are requesting CME (ACCME) credit for the meeting are required to complete the evaluation. The evaluation link will be emailed to all attendees on **8 April 2024**. All evaluations must be completed by **14 June 2024**.

Videotaping Sessions

Attendees may not videotape, audiotape, or photograph (camera or camera phone) presentations at the conference without permission from the session chair.

Abstracts

Abstracts for all presentations are available online. [Click here](#) to access the Online Congress Schedule.

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Schizophrenia International Research Society
2024 Annual Congress of the Schizophrenia International Research Society
April 3 – 7, 2024
Florence, Italy

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Amedco LLC designates this live activity for a maximum of 26.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Awards



2024 BASIC RESEARCH AWARD

SABINA BERRETTA
M.D.

Sabina Berretta, MD, began her research training at Institute of Human Physiology, University of Catania, Italy. In 1990, she joined the laboratory directed by Dr. A. M. Graybiel in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT, where she worked on neural circuitry linking the motor cortex to basal ganglia. In 1997, Sabina moved to McLean Hospital - Harvard Medical School to work in the laboratory directed by Dr. F. Benes. There she developed an animal model designed to investigate GABAergic abnormalities in schizophrenia and developed her work on human brain tissue.

In 1999, Sabina became the director of the Translational Neuroscience Laboratory at McLean Hospital. She and her team conduct investigations on the biology and pathophysiology of psychiatric symptoms. Their studies focus on neural circuits involved in emotion processing, including the amygdala, prefrontal cortex, medial thalamus, entorhinal cortex and olfactory system. Her group has published extensively on the role of these brain regions in emotion dysregulation across several brain disorders. One of her most recent papers (Nature, March 6th 2024, in collaboration with Dr. Steve McCarroll) reports on a neuron/astrocyte coordinated program supporting synaptic plasticity in the human prefrontal cortex, and its disruption in schizophrenia and aging.

In 2014, Sabina became the director of the Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center (HBTRC), one of six NIH NeuroBioBank sites. Her work with the HBTRC aims to make research on nervous system disorders possible. The HBTRC does this by collecting brain donations from persons suffering from neurological, psychiatric and neurodevelopmental conditions and distributing them to investigators across the world.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

ERIC YH CHEN
M.D., FRCPsych

Eric Chen has been working on understanding how the human mind could sometimes enter into a pathological state called Psychosis, and how best to help people in that state of mind. Psychosis occurs when the brain system of engaging with reality fails.

EC studied medicine at Oxford and Edinburgh Universities. He received specialist psychiatry training at Nottingham and continued senior training in Cambridge, working with top scientists from the Cambridge University Department of Psychiatry and the Medical Research Council Applied Psychology Unit. There he developed his research interest in cognitive neuroscience approach to psychopathology, in particular schizophrenia and psychosis.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

DOLORES MALASPINA
M.D., M.S., M.P.H.

Dr. Dolores Malaspina is Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Genetic and Genomic Sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York where she directs the system wide Psychosis Program. She trained in psychiatry and began her career at Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute, becoming the director of Clinical Neurobiology and launching the “Schizophrenia Research Unit” (SRU) and high-risk programs. She subsequently became the Chairman and the Anita and Joseph Steckler Professor of Psychiatry at New York University and the Bellevue Hospital Center also founding the multidisciplinary “Institute for Social and Psychiatric Initiatives” (InSPIRES) to study the heterogeneous underpinnings of psychosis and train beginning investigators. Dr. Malaspina holds degrees in environmental biology (Boston U), zoology (Rutgers U) and epidemiology (Columbia U), in addition to her medical training (Rutgers) which together established the framework for her translational studies across populations, patients and healthy subjects. She first proposed and demonstrated large effects of advancing paternal age on the risk for schizophrenia, explaining the substantial impact of rare gene variants in its genetic architecture, also was the first to show resting hippocampal hyperperfusion in persons with psychosis, subsequently shown to be from neuroinflammation. Current work on the gut-brain-axis links hippocampal inflammation to peripheral autonomic neuropathy. A focus on community exposures, trauma and life course adversity is central to her perspectives and she also serves as the inaugural Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Mount Sinai Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Malaspina is also an expert clinician, recognized by US News And World Report and other rankings, and serves on the steering committee for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) for the American Psychiatric Association. She has published 300 papers and had continual research support from the National Institute of Mental Health. Her career is equally devoted to psychiatric education and, particularly, to mentoring beginning investigators across educational backgrounds and disciplines, including leading roles in several training grants, a 10-year K 24 grant to mentor translational schizophrenia researchers, and as the mentor to a half dozen K awardees.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PROFESSOR DAME TIL WYKES
DBE, FAcMedSci, FSocSci, FBPS

Dame Til Wykes is a professor and Head of Mental Health and Psychological Sciences at King's College London and a consultant clinical psychologist at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. She led the UK NHS-wide infrastructure to support mental health research for the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), was an NIHR senior investigator and now the NIHR Senior Spokesperson on mental health research.

In addition to her scientific studies, grants, and publications, her research has had impact through the development of the CIRCuiTSTM cognitive remediation software and novel co-production methods that are used internationally. She influenced national and international research strategies through the European ROAMER (2015), and UK Mental Health Research Goals projects (2021). She champions Patient and Public Involvement and founded the renowned Service User Research Enterprise which employs excellent researchers with experience of using mental health services.

Her influence has been recognised by the British Psychological Society (2014), a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDTM for the Largest Mental Health Lesson, a Damehood from the Queen (2016) and by the EPA for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in Working to Improve Mental Health Care in Europe. She has been secretary, treasurer, and president of SIRS. She is an elected fellow of the Academies of Medical Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Arts, and has two honorary Doctor of Science degrees. She ran the national campaign for a statutory minimum wage when a PhD student and now campaigns on gender pensions equity in the periods between being a proud grandmother.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 OUTSTANDING CLINICAL / COMMUNITY RESEARCH AWARD

JEAN-PAUL SELTEN
M.D., P.h.D.

Dr. Jean-Paul Selten is Emeritus Professor of social exclusion and mental disorder at the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands. He trained in psychiatry at the University of Amsterdam (teachers: Professors Piet Kuiper and Frans de Jonghe) and started his career in the admission ward of Rosenberg Psychiatric Hospital, The Hague, where he noticed the vast over-representation of immigrants from Surinam, the Netherlands Antilles and Morocco. Finding an explanation for this phenomenon became the main target of his research.

After his years in The Hague, he became Associate Professor at the University Medical Centre Utrecht, where he conducted research, delivered patient care and supervised residents. Supported by the Theodore and Vada Stanley Foundation he conducted a two-year first-contact incidence study in The Hague and provided strong evidence of the validity of the (then controversial) diagnoses of schizophrenia spectrum disorders for members of the aforementioned immigrant groups. He also showed that selective migration could not solely explain the increased incidence of schizophrenia among migrants from Surinam to the Netherlands.

In 2005 he published, in collaboration with Elizabeth Cantor-Graae, the first meta-analysis on schizophrenia and migration. In the same year they launched the social defeat hypothesis of schizophrenia, which posits that (i) the experience of an outsider status or subordinate position (alternatively: low status and repeated humiliation) is a common mechanism underlying the increased risks for members of disadvantaged ethnic minorities, city residents, drug users, individuals with a low IQ and those with a history of childhood trauma; (ii) that this experience, in susceptible individuals, may lead to dopamine dysregulation.

In 2009 he accepted a position for patient care, education and research at Rivierduinen Mental Health Care in Leiden and in 2012 he was appointed professor of social exclusion and mental disorder at the University of Maastricht. In collaboration with Jan Booij, Professor of nuclear medicine at the University of Amsterdam, he tested the "dopamine dysregulation part" of the social defeat hypothesis in individuals with hearing impairment and in those with an autism spectrum disorder. In epidemiological studies he showed increased risks for other groups exposed to social exclusion, including LGBs and transgenders. Dr. Selten holds a degree in epidemiology in addition to medicine. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Psychological Medicine.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 OUTSTANDING TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD

INEZ MYIN-GERMEYS
Ph.D.

Prof. Inez Myin-Germeys is a psychologist and Full Research Professor of Contextual Psychiatry at KU Leuven, Belgium. She is the head of the Center for Contextual Psychiatry (CCP), which she founded in 2015. With nearly three decades of expertise, dr. Myin-Germeys specializes in leveraging the Experience Sampling Methodology (ESM) to study the interaction between the person and the environment in the onset and maintenance of psychopathology in general, and psychosis specifically. Her current research focuses on the enhancement of ESM methodology, alongside an in-depth exploration of stress sensitivity and altered social dynamics in the development of psychosis. Over the last 15 years, she has extended her research focus to the clinical implementation of ESM. She has pioneered an innovative Ecological Momentary Intervention tailored for the treatment of early psychosis, underscoring her commitment to translating research findings into tangible therapeutic interventions. As the principal investigator of the H2020 IMMERSE project, Dr. Myin-Germeys spearheads efforts to integrate ESM into routine mental health care, as a tool for self-management and shared decision-making. She highly values the incorporation of first-person perspectives and actively engages different stakeholders across her research initiatives. Dr. Myin-Germeys is a highly-cited author with over 450 papers, and more than 59,000 citations (H-index 111). Furthermore, she is committed to nurturing the next generation of researchers, having mentored over 50 PhDs and postdoctoral scholars. Dr Myin-Germeys received several recognitions for her work, including an ERC consolidator grant, the Aspasia Award for Women in Science by the Dutch Research Council, and the esteemed Odysseus Brain Gain grant from the Flemish Research Council, underscoring her unwavering commitment to advancing the frontiers of contextual psychiatry and shaping the future of mental health research and treatment.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

SINAN GULOXSUZ
M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Sinan Guloksuz is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, School for Mental Health and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, and the Department of Psychiatry, Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis (STEP) Program, Yale University School of Medicine. He earned his MD degree from Gazi University, Turkey, and MSc and PhD degrees from Maastricht University, the Netherlands. His PhD project investigated the biological mechanisms of environmental stressors in psychosis, with a particular focus on the immune system. He completed the psychiatry residency program at Bakirkoy Research and Training Hospital for Psychiatry, Neurology, and Neurosurgery, Istanbul, Turkey.

With a background in clinical psychiatry and epidemiology, his research focus has been on understanding the mechanisms underlying mental health outcomes and investigating the contribution of exposome and genome to multidimensional behavioral and cognitive phenotypes in the general population cohorts and large case-control samples, such as the EUGEI study. The second body of his work has been in the areas of clinical trials and service research for psychosis spectrum disorder, in particular Early Detection and Prevention.

He currently serves as the Vice Coordinator and the Work-Package Leader (Data Inference) in the EU Horizon 2021 project: Gene Environment interactions in Mental health trajectoryS of Youth (Youth-GEMs) with a total budget of € 10 million and the Work-Package Co-Leader (Gene-Environment Interaction) in the ZonMw-funded project: Outcome of Psychosis: Heterogeneity Explained by Long-lasting Individual Attributes (OPHELIA) with a total budget of € 1.5 million. His research aims to integrate exposomic and genomic data to provide mechanistic understanding of potentially modifiable factors and to translate these into clinical practice and evidence-based policy for population-based intervention and precision prevention approaches to increase mental well-being and resilience within the community.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 RISING STAR AWARD

OLEGUER PLANA-RIPOLL
B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

Oleguer Plana-Ripoll is an associate professor at Aarhus University (Denmark), where he leads a research group working on psychiatric and social epidemiology. After completing his BSc in Mathematics and MSc in Statistics in Barcelona, he moved to Denmark, where he did a PhD in register-based epidemiology at Aarhus University. As a postdoc, he joined the Niels Bohr Professorship program of research led by Prof. John McGrath, and he was awarded in 2019 a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship that allowed him to work with Prof. Harvey Whiteford and his team at the University of Queensland (Australia). In 2021, Oleguer was awarded a Lundbeck Foundation Fellowship and, shortly after this, a Sapere Aude grant from Independent Research Fund Denmark. These starting grants allowed him to start his own research group at Aarhus University. His team works on the development and application of epidemiological methods for psychiatric research, particularly in research using data from administrative healthcare records.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 GLOBAL SCHIZOPHRENIA AWARD

CAMILO DE LA FUENTE SANDOVAL
M.D., Ph.D.

Since I began my career in academic psychiatry, I have been actively involved in research, teaching and university service within the Department of Neuropsychiatry at the Instituto Nacional de Neurología y Neurocirugía (INNN) in Mexico City. My training as a psychiatrist followed by a Masters and PhD focusing on Schizophrenia Research has allowed me to develop a career in clinical research, focusing on biomarkers in early psychosis including functional neuroimaging, electrophysiology, cognition, and inflammation. I have also established a clinic for patients with first-episode psychosis and clinical high risk at the INNN, which allowed to establish collaborations both nationally, with several Mexican academic institutions, and internationally with other universities in the US, Canada and Latin America.

Congratulations!

Awards



2024 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

THOMAS JAMIESON-CRAIG
M.B., B.S., Ph.D., FRCPsych

Thomas Jamieson Craig (Tom Craig) MD PhD FRCPsych: Emeritus Professor of Social Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College, London, Hon Consultant psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley Hospital and. Past President World Association of Social Psychiatry.

Tom is a pioneer. In all his professional career he has engaged himself in building services and interventions for the most disabled people suffering from schizophrenia.

Tom qualified in medicine at the University of the West Indies and trained in psychiatry in Nottingham UK. He completed his PhD with George Brown and Tirril Harris at Bedford College, London and was appointed to Kings College London as the first UK Professor of Community Psychiatry in 1990. He worked clinically in South London where he led the closure and re-provision of a hospital asylum and the development of community mental health services. He served as a member of the NHS England clinical advisory and Health Policy Commission, was the mental health lead for the National Clinical Advisory Team, and lead of the South London and South East England Mental Health Research Network. He is an honorary fellow of the World Psychiatric Association, the European Association of Social Psychiatry and received the Royal College of Psychiatrists lifetime award for contributions to rehabilitation psychiatry. His clinical research focuses on developing and evaluating community-based psychiatric services and the promotion of these solutions at a National and International level. These programmes have included residential alternatives to the hospital asylum, studies of homeless mental health, specialised services for first episode psychosis and most recently, studies of AVATAR therapy for the treatment of auditory verbal hallucinations in psychosis.

Congratulations!

2024 Early Career Awardees Travel Awards

Suhailah Ali, Australia
Atheeshaan Arumham, United Kingdom
Veronica Begni, Italy
Vanessa Calderon, United States
Megan Campbell, South Africa
Giulia Cattarinussi, Italy
Jose Conejeros Pavez, Chile
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Kamelia Harris, United Kingdom
Yuto Hasegawa, United States
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Daisuke Koshiyama, Japan
Isabel Kreis, Norway
Delfina Lahitou Herlyn, Argentina

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Emma Parrish, United States
Susanne Prokop, Hungary
Julia Rodriguez-Sanchez, United Kingdom
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Fumihiko Ueno, Canada
Chithra Uppinkudru, India
Javiera Vásquez, Chile
Samara Walpole, Australia
Xuan Wang, China
Olivia Wootton, South Africa
Jiahe Zhang, United States

Congratulations!

2024 Early Career Awardees Academic Excellence

Early Career Awardees selected to receive the Academic Excellence Award receive waived congress registration for 2-years, year of award and the following congress year.

Paulina Bagrowska, Poland

Jonah Byrne, Ireland

Edward Chesney, United Kingdom

Francesca Crump, United States

Paolo Enrico, Italy

Stephanie Herrlinger, United States

Yanhui Li, Singapore

Edward Palmer, United Kingdom

Subash Raj Susai, Ireland

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- Visibility, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

BE RECOGNIZED AND AWARDED

- Research Award opportunities
- Honorific Awards
- Early Career Awards



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2025

Annual Congress

of the Schizophrenia International Research Society

Chicago, Illinois

29 March - 2 April, 2025